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WHY SOCIAL WORKERS WANT THE VOTE

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Voluntary National Service.

The appeal to women to "remain for the present at their posts," made by Mrs. Tennant and Miss Markham, of the National Service Department, is a timely one, as all acquainted with the conditions are well aware. Women will be wanted presently in large numbers to fill gaps left by men, but probably the only difficulty in the future will be the difficulty of the past—to deal with the overwhelming numbers of women who offer themselves for national service. Under these circumstances it is like "forcing an open door" to call for "conscription" or "forced labour" for women. And those who talk this kind of nonsense should realise that conscription or "forced labour" for the voteless, as compared with conscription for the enfranchised sex, is a return to serfdom for women only.

Woman a Weak Bargainer.

We publish this week an article by Miss I. O. Ford on the need for women to organise in Trade Unions, and another, dealing with the Report of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, which shows that such improvements in women's wages as have been affected since the war have been mainly brought about by Trade Union effort. The importance of the organisation of women workers of all classes is very well explained in an article on "Women's Employment and the War" in *The Economist* of February 2nd. The need for combination is, the writer holds, even more pressing among women engaged in commercial occupations than among those employed in industry. Among factory operatives there is a greater tendency to seek for a rise of pay than among clerks and better educated women, with some of whom the economic motive plays a comparatively small part at the present time, so that their willingness to accept a small rate of pay for any form of "War work" re-acts disastrously on the general standard. In industry, too, says the writer, "the men have done more [than in the commercial world] to keep up the standard of women's wages since the war."

"Nothing," he continues, "has so clearly shown the lack of organisation in women's labour as the disproportion between the present pressing demand for it and the rate of wages it can command. Although we have already reached the point when it is almost impossible to find a really competent woman in the open market, the wage which she might expect is not in the least commensurate with her scarcity value.

"On the employers' side, the cause is, to a great extent, his failure to realise that a valuable article could be secured by paying enough for it. On the side of the employee, the causes are many and complicated. Lack of organised trade unionism, and, consequently, of knowledge and experience in the forcing-up of wages, makes the woman a weak bargainer at the outset. Then the tremendous call of patriotism, and the comparison between the uneconomic sacrifices of our manhood and the comparative safety and ease of any occupation not on the battlefield, have made women very unwilling to make a profit out of their scarcity value. At the beginning of the war they only longed to make some sacrifice equal to that of the soldiers. This spirit was easy to exploit on the part of the employers, themselves anxious to do their best for the men who had left them to join the Army, ready to keep open their places and pay their salaries, and, consequently, not much inclined to be unduly generous to the women taken on as substitutes."

Parliamentary Notes.

On February 7th, the day of the opening of Parliament, a conference was held in the House of Commons between the Parliamentary Labour Party and the newly elected Executive Committee of the National Labour Party, at which it was agreed to urge the Government to introduce without delay a Bill upon the general lines of the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform. This meeting also decided to invite the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress to co-operate in calling a larger representative national conference of industrial organisations with a view to furthering this same object. It is understood that this will meet at an early date.

On February 8th, the Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Bonar Law) introduced a motion that no Public Bills other than Government Bills should be introduced, and this was agreed to. During the debate reference was made by several members to the findings of the Speaker's Conference, and there is a widespread feeling in the House of Commons that the Report of that Conference should be embodied in a Government Bill without delay.

Mr. Walter Roch put down for debate an amendment to the Address, regretting that the Government had not announced its intention to introduce a measure of electoral reform in order to secure a register representative of voters for the purposes of the next General Election. This amendment was, however, not pressed, upon the promise that a day for the discussion of the subject would be given in the near future. The date is not yet announced, but it is understood that the discussion will be upon some resolution recommending action upon the lines of the Speaker's Conference, and that the Government will by this means test the feeling of the House upon the question.

On February 13th, the Consultative Committee of Constitutional Women's Suffrage Societies met at the office of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and on the same day a small informal conference was held in the House of Commons, in which some members of the House of Commons, of all parties, and some members of Women's Suffrage and other women's political organisations, met to consider the best steps to be taken to promote the introduction of a Government Bill on electoral reform.

The Prospects of a Government Measure.

Sir John Simon Advises Acceptance of an Instalment.

The meeting of the National Council for Adult Suffrage at the Kingsway Hall, on February 10th, was mainly concerned with the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference with regard to Women's Suffrage. Sir John Simon was the chief speaker, and the meeting listened to him with earnest attention, as he urged counsels of moderation. "Suffragists generally," says *The Manchester Guardian*, "will be grateful to Sir John Simon for advice which even those who do not agree with it must recognise to be based on exceptional knowledge, and dictated by a desire as strong and sincere as that of any of them to promote the cause they have at heart." It is a case of making a beginning, and no one supposes that, once the bar of sex disqualifications is broken, other limitations will endure for ever."

The most vital matter is to get the principle acknowledged. "Those who have felt most strongly the indignity imposed on a whole sex by the refusal to permit any woman, simply because she is a woman, to take any part in the direction of national affairs, though she may be infinitely better qualified than nine-tenths of the men who are voters, have never laid the chief stress in their demand for the franchise on the number of women to be enfranchised, but rather on the question of disability. For them it mattered far more that some women should be enfranchised than that they should be enfranchised on this qualification, rather than on that, and in larger or in smaller numbers."

We must not Jeopardise the Chance of a Government Bill.

Miss Margaret Ashton, who presided at the meeting, said that the Report of the Speaker's Conference showed that at last the Suffragists and anti-Suffragists in the House of Commons had come to an agreement on the principle that Women's Suffrage was part of the democratic movement. "We do not wish to criticise the Report," she said. "This is not the moment for criticism. We want to see how far our adult suffrage principles can apply to it, and how far we can get improvements on it when Parliament introduces a Bill, as we firmly hope and believe it will." Miss Ashton welcomed the resolutions of the Conference as a step on the way to national franchise. "We have to see to it that no action of ours shall jeopardise the chance of a Government Bill," she said; "but when a Bill is introduced into the House, we must approach our friends, and endeavour to persuade them to put forward our point of view."

An Immense and Significant Advance.

Sir John Simon said that at this time there could be no justification for undertaking great political changes unless the changes were intimately connected with the salvation of our society. He believed that the reconstruction of the basis of the State on the lines of a wider franchise was essential to the future safety of the community. There was a better chance of carrying a great electoral reform measure now than ever before. "We have the strongest ground for expecting the Government to introduce such a Bill, and it has a better prospect of passing into law than any previous Bill. I am confident that no such Bill could be introduced by the Government unless it contained proposals for Women's Suffrage. That is an immense and significant advance."

A Warning.

He urged Suffragists, while pointing out the unsatisfactory nature of the compromise—one based on no intelligible principle—and demanding a wider basis, not to lose the chance of getting the principle of Women's Suffrage introduced by the Government into a Government Bill in the House, where it would be liable to discussion and change. He warned them against doing anything which would allow people who were anxious to prevent the introduction of any kind of suffrage measure, to say that the Suffragists were hopelessly divided. "Do not let us give the people who would like to keep the door shut the excuse for doing so that no Suffragist can find the key.

"Once the principle is accepted by the State, the limits within which it is to be applied will be generous and democratic limits. This is why I attach more importance than some of you to getting the principle recognised." He implored them to co-operate with all Suffragists to secure the introduction in a Government Bill of Women's Suffrage, on as generous a basis as the Government could be induced to consent to, and begged adult Suffragists not to make the mistake of supposing that their cause would be helped by any action which prevented the Government from bringing in a Bill. When justice triumphed, and the principles of freedom were restored, could we refuse to invite to the work of construction the women who had sacrificed themselves to help the nation through this terrible war?

Mr. Percy Alden said that the recommendations with regard to Women's Suffrage had been carried by a very considerable majority of the Conference, and that there ought, therefore, to be a still larger majority in the House of Commons.

Miss Mary Macarthur, Mrs. Barton (of the Women's Co-operative Guild), and Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., urged the right of all wage-earning women to the franchise, on the ground that their lives will be vitally affected by the problems of reconstruction. "The War Work that women had done," said Mrs. Barton, "was not a reason, from their point of view, for asking for the vote," but, she added, "from the point of view of the people who are calling on the women to come out and do the nation's work—it is a reason."

Miss Macarthur said that even the better industrial organisation of men was not sufficient to account entirely for the difference in their industrial conditions. Their status as voters helped them very materially.

Mr. Anderson also urged moderation and wisdom on the meeting. The report of the Speaker's Conference marked an immense step forward. "Those of us," he said, "who believe in the principle of adult suffrage for men and women, must do our very best to make that principle a reality; but at the same time we must avoid joining hands with those who are determined to wreck the Woman Suffrage proposals altogether."

The Bishop of Lincoln sent a letter regretting that ill-health prevented him from presiding at the meeting. While regarding the proposals of the Conference as an unsatisfactory compromise, he expressed thankfulness that an instalment of Women's Suffrage had been so clearly recommended.

Mr. J. L. Garvin also wrote regretting the thwarting of his original intention of being present at the meeting. "I wish," he wrote, "I could have been with you to testify by presence and voice—whatever they may be worth—that this war will have been fought in vain, or to blind purpose, unless it is to result in a fuller and nobler realisation of democracy throughout the world. . . . The basis of the old order has been destroyed by the facts themselves. Never could the Empire have been saved by those to whom the franchise has been hitherto confined. The Empire has been saved by calling up the full fighting and working power of the non-voters; and who now shall say that those who have saved all that is meant by citizenship shall be themselves excluded from it? Those who have been good enough to do, in fact, the vital duties of citizenship in war are good enough to enjoy the equal rights of citizenship in peace."

Referring to "the political and social necessity of redressing once for all the gigantic inequality which now debars women from the vote," Mr. Garvin continued:—"Before the war I opposed their claim unwillingly, on the sole ground that when Armageddon came, only men could maintain the State. Now I know that men alone never could have maintained it, and that henceforth the modern State must be dependent on men and women alike for the progressive strength and vitality of its whole organisation. If a convert on this point, I am a glad convert. After Armageddon nothing can be the same again. The world has entered on a new political epoch. For all the better purposes of that epoch a wide enfranchisement of women holds the key.

"In my personal view it would be well worth while to have something like the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference carried by consent rather than that an immense, and, indeed, an unprecedented reform should be indefinitely postponed or vitally endangered."

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Standing Together.

The Value of Trade Unionism for Women.

A good many of our old conventions and ideas have been "scrapped" during the War, and even that strange belief so strongly rooted in many men's and some women's minds, that a man, because he is the supporter of the family, is entitled to receive higher pay for the same work than a woman, is weakening. This weakening is partly due to the various registers and statistics showered upon us lately which have at last somewhat opened the eyes of men both in and out of Parliament to what has always been visible to wage-earning women of all classes—viz., that most, if not all, women who work, support various relatives, if not a whole family. I find, however, not many people appear yet to realise also that a married man, *as such*, is not paid more than an unmarried man for the same work. Wages are not affected by marriage so much as by ancient conventions founded on sex.

Also, the extraordinary ability and power of adaptation displayed by women at this moment have made our M.P.s begin to see that women do play, and always have played, an immense part in serving the community.

But there is a good deal that women themselves have still to learn concerning their own industrial needs, and that is about the meaning and value to them of Trade Unions. Working women, as children, receive no teaching in the schools about what Trade Unionism has done for men, and, indeed, for the whole nation. Their history lessons are about other matters entirely.*

It was a woman—Mrs. Patterson—who founded the Women's Trade Union movement in England. If men had been wise, they would have founded it. Now that women are "diluting" labour (tending in some instances to lower wages), and are in demand in every industry in the country, a very serious prospect lies before working-men (and women), and is largely the result of their neglect of women's interests. It is therefore women's most imperative duty to rectify this and now, without delay, to join either the Union in the Trade in which they work, or some other Union.

A Point of Honour.

Surely it is time that it was generally understood that there is something dishonourable in taking a man's place in the workshop without demanding the same wage for the same work, and without joining the Union to which he belonged. The Union in the past was the weapon which obtained that wage for him, and it alone has the power to secure that same wage for the woman substitute.

The Ministry of Munitions has to an alarming extent failed to pay women at the same rate as men. But women when in a Trade Union can, and must, set this right, for, as we surely realise by this time, they are bound for the sake of the nation's welfare to stand by the men in the coming Industrial difficulties. *Engineering* in 1915 referred to women's cheaper labour as a power to be used in the future to defeat men's Trade Unions. Women can prevent this. Our future as a healthy, strong nation mostly depends on keeping up the standard of living, and, therefore, of wages; and women must no longer be blacklegs, underselling each other, and underselling men. They have been so in the past, not wilfully, but because of ignorance, as I have explained, and because it has been, and is still, made harder for a woman than it is for a man to be a Trade Unionist, both by the employer, who in many cases does his best to prevent his women employees from joining any Trade Union at all, and on account of the generally diffused idea that Trade Unions are vulgar and unwomanly, and only lead to strikes and unpleasantness, and also because women's low wages have made a weekly contribution almost impossible. But now, women are the fashion. The employer needs their help as never before, and their wages in some cases are much higher (at present), men Trade Unionists are awakening to the danger of allowing cheap labour in the workshops, and the vote is on its way without any doubt: so now is the time for women to come forward and think out seriously what they owe to their fellow-women and men workers, and in what way they can best help the nation in its coming troubles.

* This, I know, applies to boys as well as to girls, but boys hear of Trade Unionism and its value in the workshops and in the clubs from their fellow workers. Until quite lately girls did not hear of these things from their fellow men-workers, who (with some exceptions, of course) did not trouble themselves much about whether women joined Trade Unions or not. In some cases they have even been antagonistic.

They must dismiss the old notion that Trade Unions are of no value. They must ask themselves why are men's wages and conditions of work better than they used to be? If men fought for these advantages in old days, and got them by standing together in their Unions, cannot women do the same? No rights are gained except by renunciation and by earnest work. Men gained their better position thus, and women must, and can, do likewise. Standing alone, as they have mostly done in the past, they can achieve nothing; but united with men in Trade Unions, and with the Parliamentary vote behind them, they can hold their own against all the odds in the world. The old teaching about what is womanly or unwomanly dies hard, I know, amongst working women especially. But a new spirit is growing, a new understanding that our sphere is what we ourselves make it—not mapped out for us.

Trade Unions, they must learn, can, and do, prevent numbers of strikes. When a responsible body such as a Trade Union Committee can be consulted by the employer, numberless difficulties are arranged and disputes avoided, of which the general public never hears anything. In past years I have often taken part in such negotiations, and have found that they eventually lead to an infinitely better mutual understanding between the parties at variance with each other.

But Trade Unionism stands for something more than wages and conditions of labour. It stands for working collectively towards the highest good of the community. It teaches its members to stand together and to trust one another as comrades in this great fight. Working women are learning this now, though slowly, but they still have to learn to work in this cause with men, not as mere admirers of masculine superiority like those women to whom Mrs. Poyser in *Adam Bede* refers, who require a man to tell them "which end they stand uppermost on," but as intelligent and helpful equals.

All this is ancient history to many. But amongst the young workers and middle-class workers now arriving into the fields and factories are many who seem never to have thought of these old truths. I have read the works of a speaker who urged women to come and work, saying, "Never mind if the pay seems small—don't grumble at it—remember you are serving your country," and so on. Those who come into an industry, and from so-called patriotism accept too small payment, are injuring their country both morally and physically. Anyone who has seen the degeneration of character following insufficient food, miserable housing, &c., will realise this. Our future as a nation, as that of all nations, depends on greatness of character, as well as on good physique. Mind and body are strangely interwoven, and those who help to deteriorate one, ignore the other, too. Let us remember this.

I. O. Ford.

The Position of Women in Industry.

A Report has just been issued by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations and presented to the Joint Committee on Labour Problems after the War. It contains much interesting information as to women's present position in industry, and makes many valuable suggestions as to the future, which, it is to be hoped, will be carefully considered in any scheme of reconstruction planned by the Government. There was little sign in the discussions of the Labour Party Conference (of which we gave a report in our issue of February 2nd) of any realisation of the importance of the problems of women's labour; while at the big public meeting in Birmingham to inaugurate "A National Alliance of Employers and Employed," at which the Director-General of National Service presided on January 20th, the subject of women workers was scarcely touched upon.

The Report shows that while in certain industries the wages of women have risen greatly since the war, in other occupations the rise has been very small, so that in proportion to the present cost of living, they are actually earning less than before.

With regard to the much-discussed Order L2, the Report states that in mechanical engineering the money-wages received by women paid on a system of results, or those engaged on work of a fully skilled tradesman, are undoubtedly much above those earned by women under pre-war conditions. "Wages of £2 and £3 a week on piece-work are not uncommon, and cases of 55s. day rates are known. The effects on women on time rates (not doing fully skilled work) have not been so good. Recent decisions have interpreted L2 as fixing the rate at £1 for a full week according to the custom of the district. While it is true that L2 when first put into practice meant a considerable increase—in some cases a rise from 11s. and 12s. to £1—

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it is not at all clear that at present the interpretation given to L2 has not kept wages on time below what could have been obtained by free negotiation. Speaking generally, however, wages in mechanical engineering for women doing men's work are considerably higher than the ordinary women's rate."

A footnote, dealing with the revised L2, expresses a hope that this Order "can no longer be interpreted as laying down a maximum," but one would like to see the Order made absolutely clear on this point.

Wages Raised through Trade Unions' Effort.

Examples are also given of trades where women's wages have been substantially raised, owing to substitution having taken place under trade union agreements. "In the cotton trade, woollen and worsted, china and earthenware, bleaching and dyeing, wood-work, and the boot and shoe industry, agreements are on the basis of equivalent pay for equivalent work, and in at least one case (that of the bleachers and dyers) contain a provision that not less than four-fifths of the men's time rate shall be paid."

"A recent award of the Tailoring Trade Board has fixed the minimum wage for women employed as tailors' cutters at 6d. The pre-war minimum was 3½d. per hour. It is not possible to give the actual increase (as the women promoted to be cutters were probably earning more than the minimum), but undoubtedly better opportunities for women are—for the present—open in this trade."

In other cases agreements only cover a part of the trade concerned. There are important local agreements for hosiery, china and earthenware, baking, gloves, lace, and other trades.

Women employed on the railways in grades where they were not employed before the war, start, says the Report, at the men's minimum rate. *The Economist* (February 3rd) states, however, that in some companies the standard is fixed at about 5s. a week below the men's rates.

Lack of Combination Means Low Rates.

In other cases, where substitution appears to have taken place without any agreement as to wages—as in agriculture, bread and biscuit making, rubber work, confectionery and sweet-making—women, as a rule, are earning a little more than the ordinary wage for women, but "there is no reason whatever to suppose that the rates approximate to the rate of the men displaced.

"Speaking generally, therefore, we may conclude that the substitution of women for men has been advantageous in the point of money wages to the women; that in certain trades where definite agreements have been made, the women's rates approximate to the men's standard; but that when there has been no "interference" with the ordinary rules governing the labour market, that there has been a disastrous lowering of that standard."

With regard to women employed on what was recognised as women's work before the war, the Report states: "In nearly all the cases which have come to our knowledge some increase of wages, usually in the shape of a war bonus of about 2s. or under, has been paid. It is, we believe, the exception to find wages absolutely at the pre-war standard, though it is evident that small rises of this kind cannot compensate for the increased cost of living.

In the fuse and powder trade, for instance, owing to trade union action, "wages have been revolutionised." "At Whitworth Armstrong's, the pre-war basis rate for premium-bonus workers aged twenty-one was 3d. per hour, and at Coventry Ordinance, 2½d. These basis rates were changed as the result of trade union action and arbitration, to 4½d. in the first case and 4d. in the second, and the qualifying age reduced from twenty-one to eighteen. At Vickers (Dartford) powder-works, the pre-war rate had been 3d. per hour, with ½d. for danger money. The rate as finally fixed by arbitration was 4½d., with ½d. for danger money. Similar awards were obtained for other large firms, and in June, 1916, the Government Order 447 was issued, laying down 4½d. per hour as the rate for women of eighteen years and over employed on time rates. This had the effect of raising the wages of the worst paid workers considerably. Unfortunately, however, this Order was only applied to those trades in which substantial successes had already been won by trade union effort; that is, to ammunition making and engineering.

Since the Committee's Report of the Joint Committee was published, two new Orders (Orders, 1917, 9 and 10), laying down various rates, and affecting about a quarter of a million women, have been issued by the Ministry of Munitions. Under these, for the first time, a statutory wage is applied to some

of the large subsidiary trades engaged on munition-making. Among these are electrical engineering and electrical accessories, wire rope and cables, iron and steel work, and rubber, in which trades very low wages have hitherto been paid. In some cases women have been receiving only 9s. for a week of fifty-two hours; yet they were unable to leave without forfeiting six weeks' wages.

While, on the whole, the new Orders show a decided advance on previous Orders—the increase in wages varying from 6s. to 10s. a week—it is regrettable to find one of them (Order 10) fixing as low a rate as 3¾d. an hour as a basis rate for women of eighteen engaged on piece-work. Having regard to the present cost of living, this is only the equivalent of what was regarded as a sweated rate before the war. It had been hoped that a new consolidating Order would have been issued raising the rates of workers of eighteen and over to at least 6d. an hour, and making it a minimum, and not a standard rate.

The conclusion of the Committee is "that in trades where the organisations concerned have been sufficiently strong, war conditions have produced a marked rise in the wages of women, whether engaged on women's work or in substitution for men; that some small rise has been paid in many other trades, but that, as far as the evidence at our disposal goes, the bulk of the depressed women's industries have not obtained a rise in wages anything like equivalent to the increased cost of living, nor is there any evidence to lead us to believe that women engaged in substitution for men have, unless in exceptional cases, obtained the men's full rate. The promises to munition workers generally of a fair minimum have so far materialised precisely in proportion to the energy of the organisations concerned."

The moral of this conclusion is that it is quite possible at the present time to produce a substantial rise in women's wages, particularly in the sweated industries, but that any marked improvement is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain, unless it is demanded by the trade unions, backed by the power of the vote.

Woman's Awakening in Italy.*

Whoever believes firmly in the emancipation of women as an indispensable factor in the development of any nation, and believes, moreover, that this emancipation must have its roots in a broad and true outlook embracing alike things spiritual and things material, must find a real gladness and sense of inspiration in reading the book of thirteen essays and an Introduction which Carla Cadorna—daughter of Italy's Commander-in-Chief—has just given to an Italian public.

Most of the articles have already appeared in past months in various Italian papers; and all are notable, not only for their admirable literary style, but for their observations on passing phenomena, alike scathing and inspiring. In "The Censorship of Tongues," "War Philanthropy," and "The Background of Big Things," we find such protests against frivolous criticism, pretentious well-doing, and chicanery of all kinds, as, whatever our country, have risen many times in the hearts of all of us in recent months. Yet, though we smile, and nod, and admire as we read these iconoclastic pages, the condemnatory or destructive note is not that which gives its chief character to Carla Cadorna's book, but rather the faith which rises always above all "breakage"—the construction which proceeds steadily on the ground which destruction merely clears.

As a woman, she speaks chiefly to women, and her scathing pen points out every fault and failing which we women of England have long since learnt to associate with the type which we call "the woman of yesterday"; but not less clearly in such chapters as "To-day and To-morrow," and "The New Feminine Conscience," does she indicate the giant strides which she perceives her countrywomen to be making in this war, and the new life alike in outlook and in circumstance which she is confident awaits them to-morrow. The best chapter in the book is, perhaps, "Discipline and Liberty," and also here the title alone suggests the excellent maturity of outlook—the balance of mind which knows alike how to conserve and to progress.

With many people it is the conception of patriotism to-day to admit only the good points of their country, and to refuse to face or admit even the most obvious defects. Carla Cadorna's patriotism is of a robuster order. On the title-page of her book we find the words of Mickiewichz, "The more you widen your soul, the more will you widen your frontiers," and this is the faith which colours all the pages in which she addresses herself to that "war of the back line," that conflict between things great and small which is working itself out in the civilian life of her country people at this moment.

In one of her chapters, "Our Ultra-strong Women," the writer invokes with sympathetic and artistic touches many of the heroic feminine figures of the Italian Risorgimento, such as Clara Maffei, Costanza Trotti Arconati, and others; but whilst glad to be reminded of these figures of yesterday, many readers, and especially women, will find a deeper satisfaction and stronger inspiration in the less dramatic, but no less real courage, which, through her book, we can feel in the "women of to-day."

It is the taste for hard truth, combined with a deep sense of poetry and an inexhaustible faith, which make the charm of Carla Cadorna's book. She speaks of passing things, but not in the passing spirit—she tells with joy of the revival of religion in the trenches—the reconciliation of the Sword and the Cross—but in the militancy and devotion which run linked through all her book, we feel that it is not in the trenches only that this great union is being achieved. Appealing against the false sentiment which so often mistakes all strength for heartlessness, especially in a woman, "why is this prejudice still current?" she asks. "In the beautiful etymology of the word, heart and courage (cuore and coraggio) are one and the same thing!"

There are many other points in which the scathing attack is immediately followed by, almost coupled with, the touch of poetry and truth. Beside the idle chattering of the city, she points us to the patience of the countryside—the old bent peasant-woman, who has no impatience with the slow progress of the war amid the Alpine snows, or the Carsic rocks, because she has learnt in the hard school of experience "how little the will of man can effect in face of the caprices of Nature." In the discussion of popular catchwords and their abuse, there is cutting scorn, yes, for those whose ability for sacrifice is always for the sacrifice of others; but quickly pity also makes its appearance, and the passage ends with a quotation from

The War of the Back Line (La Guerra delle Retrovie). By Carla Cadorna. (Bemporad & Son, Florence. 8vo., pp. 136.) (The entire proceeds of the sales will be dedicated to the National Committee for Soldiers Invalided by the War.)

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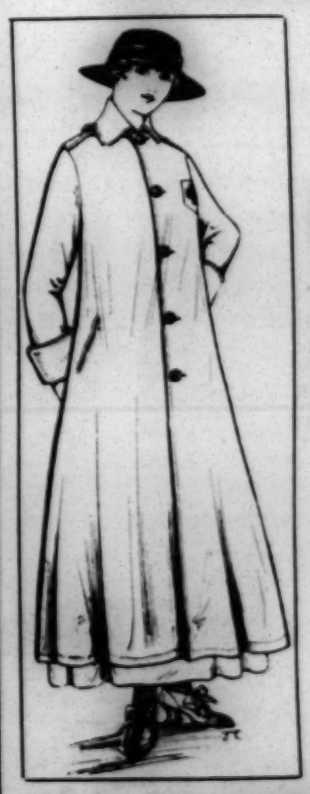

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Manzoni, "Oh, pitiful for ever he of whom spiritually it must be said, 'He had no part in this.'"

In her last chapter, "The New Feminine Conscience," as also in "To-day and To-morrow," Carla Cadorna speaks definitely of many of the new lines of work opened up to women in this war, and the unquestionable efficiency which in many cases they have shown. But it is not in this summary of facts which to the writer of this review at least has brought "the glad touch of inspiration," but rather the spirit and the outlook which breathe through all the book. There has been, indeed, some small stirring amongst women in Italy in past years, but only so far a false stirring—an imitative and unreal thing without roots or life. And writing of Italian women before this war, the present writer dared to say that for them there would be no real emancipation ever along northern lines, but wholly and solely through passion lifted to the highest level. In this war that passion—the passion of sacrifice—has been awakened in large numbers, and it would seem as if Carla Cadorna and her militant little book, at once profoundly religious in spirit and practical in grasp, were to be, perhaps, the standard-bearers and the heralds of the truer womanhood of a truer age.

Lucy Re-Bartlett.

The Horrible Dream of Mr. Stickphast Rutterly, M.P.

Mr. Rutterly was in a desperate hurry. There was something very important going on in the House. He went up the steps more speedily than was his wont.

Suddenly he found his progress barred by a Large Person in Blue. "You can't come in here, sir," said this person, respectfully but firmly—very firmly. "No men allowed in the House."

"No men! You're mad!" said Mr. Rutterly, indignantly.

"Now, none of your lip," said the Large Person in Blue. "This is no place for you, and if you're not out in half a jiffy, why you'll be put out—see?"

"I'm a Member," panted Mr. Rutterly.

"Now, don't try to be funny," said the Large Person, who was, so Mr. Rutterly saw with horror, a woman. "It don't amuse me. Out you go, and sharp!"

"But—but I've got to help to make the laws," Mr. Rutterly said feebly.

"*We* make the laws," said the Large Person grimly; "that's women's work. You leave that to *us*, my little man. *We* know what's good for you. Now run along."

"But you *can't* know what's good for me or other men," shrieked the outraged M.P. "How can you? You're women!"

"Of course, we know what's good for you," said the Large Person tolerantly. "Naturally, as we're the Mothers, we know what's good for men. Now run along, I shall get into trouble having you here. We've had a few silly men making rows here, and it doesn't do. It does you not a bit of good; only makes you look like a lot of babies."

"I don't make rows," said Mr. Rutterly, stiffly.

"All the better," said the Large Person. "Now don't let me have to tell you again: Hop it!"

"But this is the people's House," murmured Mr. Rutterly.

"This is the women's House," corrected the Large Person. "Men can't come in."

There was such a determined look in the Large Person's eyes that Mr. Rutterly, against his will, retreated and found himself outside.

There was a mild, grey-haired person of his own sex passing, to whom Mr. Rutterly appealed wildly.

"Do you know, sir, that there are women sitting in Westminster and making laws for MEN?"

"Of course, of course," said the grey-haired one soothingly. "You're not a Suffragant, are you?" he added suspiciously. "You surely don't want to vote?"

"Of course I do. How can a woman possibly understand a *man's* point of view? How can she make laws for both sexes?"

"Far better leave it to the women," said the grey-haired one soothingly again. "Think how few intelligent men there are! And then, if they voted, look how they would neglect their business! No, no; leave this to the women!"

"You don't mean to say you're satisfied to be left out—ignored?" shrieked Mr. Rutterly.

"Personally," said the grey-haired one, "I'd prefer not to vote. I've enough to do with my business, and, of course, my wife has a vote, but"—he looked round cautiously, as if afraid of being overheard—"some of the younger men are keenly dissatisfied. They say the women are so busy over their own affairs spending so much of the country's money on housing and children and so on, that they neglect the men's point of view. They—well, they are very urgent about it; but when one thinks of all the unintelligent men who know nothing of politics——"

"You don't need to be so *very* intelligent," said Mr. Rutterly, with memories of his own career in his mind, "to vote! You know what you want, and you mean to get it, that's all! It surely doesn't need much intelligence to know what the country needs in your own particular department! Women don't know what *men* need—can't know! They ought to have *us* there to help them."

"Ah! There's Miss Allen," said the grey-haired person, who had become restive, "the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I don't wish to be known as a Suffragant. Excuse me!" and he hurried away with a pallid smile on his mild face.

Mr. Rutterly flung a bitter look after him, and then went to intercept Miss Allen.

"Are you going into the House of Commons?" he asked, choking with indignation.

"Yes! You one of my Constituents?" said the lady, briskly.

"No, I'm not! I want my vote back again!" said Mr. Rutterly wildly. "Men used to vote. You've taken it from them. I want it back. I want my seat in the House of Commons."

The lady's handsome face turned cold. She spoke icily: "You really go the wrong way to work in *asking* for a vote; be patient and wait, and some day when we're not so busy we may give it to you."

"In the meantime," he argued, "you can do what you like. You can ignore our point of view. You can put the men's interests aside. Why you could even make us pay taxes," he added in horror, "without giving us a vote!"

"Certainly you will pay taxes," said Miss Allen. "You enjoy all the liberties of your country—liberties which we protect for you——"

"Liberties!" he groaned. "Precious much liberty about having to pay and not having a word in the spending!"

"You are very foolish!" said Miss Allen kindly. "You don't understand these matters. You go home and"—a smile lit up her intelligent and handsome face—"*Coax your wife!*"

"I haven't got a wife!" screamed Mr. Rutterly, furiously indignant; but Miss Allen had gone, and he found another Person in Blue standing over him.

"Out of this! You've no business in here!" said this person.

"Won't they *ever* give us the vote?" said Mr. Rutterly wildly. "Can't they see how wrong and silly it is to shut out the men? I've no doubt they do well, but they'd do so much better if they'd let the men help them. Oh, it's mad, *mad* to shut out a whole sex when the nation's composed of *both* sexes."

The Person in Blue settled her necktie.

"I daresay they'll give it you sometime," she said indifferently. "You've got to wait and see. 'Course, if they knew which way you'd vote, the party as you'd vote for would see about it sharp."

"It's not a question of party," screamed Mr. Rutterly, "it's a question of what's right. It can't be right to shut out all the men—to let only the women say what's to be done! It's foolish, absurd on the face of it. Oh, don't you *see* that?" He seized the lapels of the coat of the Guardian in Blue, and shook her in his desire to drive home to her the absurdity of letting one sex rule for both. She looked at him impassively, and then—she was gone, and he found himself sitting up in bed, and sobbing as he clutched at the corner of the eiderdown.

I am not defending Mr. Rutterly, but we must remember that it was two o'clock in the morning, when one's vitality is low, and things take on a different hue from that which they wear in the bright light of day.

Probably in the morning he was his own brave self again; but it is a fact that as he lay there with that awful feeling of impotence and despair in his heart that the dream had brought, he spoke strange words.

"*After all*," said Mr. Rutterly, "*isn't it a mistake to be ruled by one sex only?*"

H. C. Adshead.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

It is not generally known that there are now five British Red Cross and Refugee Agencies working in Russia, of which the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units were the third, being preceded by the Great Britain to Poland Fund, administered by Mr. John Pollock, and the Anglo-Russian Hospital, under Lady Muriel Paget, and followed by the Quaker Refugee Units in Samara, and the Scottish Women's Hospitals in the Dobrudja, under Dr. Elsie Inglis.

Just a year ago, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies dispatched their first Unit of doctors, nurses, and sanitary workers to open a little maternity hospital for refugee women in Petrograd. It was under Royal and Embassy patronage, and was considered such a model hospital, and was so immensely appreciated by the poor refugee mothers, that the N.U. felt encouraged to undertake work in more distant parts of Russia. In May, June, and July (1916), five more women doctors, and about twenty nurses, were sent to Middle and South-Western Russia, where they undertook medical work of an urgent nature in co-operation with the Great Britain to Poland Fund, and with the local Zemstvos (County and District Councils). Their help was especially requisitioned for the grain-growing country of the Volga, where many village hospitals had been closed on account of the great scarcity of Russian doctors and nurses, and where the peasants, as well as the refugees settled among them, were often absolutely without any medical aid.

THE HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN GALICIA.

Here at Chulpanova, where Madame Sazonoff, the wife of the new Minister to England, was a Patroness, at Stara Chelnoe, Isgara, and Petropavlovsky, the doctors and nurses carefully tended refugees and peasants of many nations and creeds, often doing their own cooking and washing as well, and cheerfully meeting difficulties and discomforts. At the same time, the Town Council of Kazan asked the Units to open a children's hospital for infectious diseases, which has been for months full of little scarlet fever and diphtheria patients—Russian and Jewish refugees. This hospital, which was adopted and financed by the West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation of the N.U., has by skilled treatment saved many children who would otherwise have died neglected, spreading disease among the large families of children that seem to be the rule among the refugees.

The last Unit was sent to South-Western Russia, to Zaleshchiki, thirty miles behind the firing-line in Galicia, near the Bukovina, where it undertook an infectious hospital for peasants and soldiers at the earnest request of the Zemstvo in Kieff. The eighty beds have been almost constantly filled with patients, suffering from many different forms of infectious disease, and the doctors have also stamped out infectious diseases in neighbouring villages, and have recently opened a smallpox "barak" 20 versts away, also vaccinating 20,000 persons, and thus preventing a widespread epidemic of "black" smallpox.

In addition to the medical value of the skilled help, the political value of these Units has been very great. In the country districts of Russia, where news penetrates only by rumour, and where unlettered peasants of different races live in uncomplaining acceptance of the evils that fate sends them, the coming of Englishwomen, highly trained for service, has immense effect, and the fame of their disinterested helpfulness, and the goodwill of their country towards Russia, travels in great circles round each of these workers. That the Zemstvos appreciate them, is shown by the fact that they have asked Miss Moberly, our able administrator (now succeeded by Mrs. Elborough) to return to them, after her much-needed rest at home, to help them with a difficult piece of educational reorganisation, and they have also asked several other workers, now no longer needed for refugees, to stay on and work for them.

To accomplish all this work, the N.U. has raised nearly £11,000, but still requires another £1,000 to carry on the urgent part of the work until the summer. The need of these trained workers is greater than ever in Russia, and the N.U. would be sorry to withdraw them when they stand for so much friendly feeling on the part of British women towards the people of Russia.

LONDON UNITS SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS

Once more Dr. Inglis has justified the belief that she is always on the spot when most needed. This time it was at Galatz after her second retreat since October last. As the Serbians were not at the moment requiring a larger hospital than the one carried on by Dr. Chesney and her Staff, Dr. Inglis had consented to work for the Russian Red Cross, and had been given a building close to the river, so that the wounded came and went by barge. There were beds for 100, which were filled immediately, and all with really bad cases. Orders were given that any patient who could walk was to come down to the dressing-room, but only one was able to come, and he crept in on all fours. Although the wounds were so serious, the patients had continually to be evacuated to make room for the others waiting to come in. During the first rush, work was continuous for sixty-five hours, and the whole staff worked with only three hours sleep taken twice during that period. Dr. Inglis says this could not have been done had it not been for the excellent kitchen arrangements. Meals were forthcoming at any hour, and as a result, the Unit was able to stand the strain with impunity.

The medical staff was most fortunate in having the help of Mr. Scott, surgeon to the British Armoured Cars Section, who offered his services at this most busy time.

Later, when evacuation was imminent, Dr. Inglis received orders after her own heart from the Chief of the Russian Red Cross—namely, to stay until the last moment. The Commander of the British Armoured Cars sent a message saying that, in the last resort, he would see that the Unit got away. As may be imagined, when the "last moment" arrived, all the railway lines were blocked, and it was quite out of the question to travel by train; but the British Armoured Cars had two barges, which they put at the disposal of the Unit. There was much competition to stay and evacuate the remaining patients, and afterwards to pack up the equipment, but finally all but four of the Unit were shipped off, Dr. Inglis and these four following by barge the next day, bringing the equipment with them.

On February 1st, at South Norwood, the Women's Afternoon Club (Secretary, Mrs. Gardiner) held a meeting at which Miss Curwen (Organising Secretary of the London Units) gave a most interesting account of all the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The audience was very enthusiastic, and took collecting cards and made a collection.

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A Bill Without Delay.

There are innumerable indications that the time has come for legislation on the question of the Franchise; and it is an urgent necessity that a Bill, and a Government Bill, should be introduced without delay, if we are to avoid the scandalous alternative of a General Election in war-time upon an anti-deluvian register.

Politically speaking, we are very much in the position of a householder who, from various causes, has put off repairs until they cannot be neglected any longer—even in war-time, when labour is scarce and materials hardly to be got. Things being thus, we know what is bound to happen. Experts are called in. Roof, woodwork, and plumbing are all defective; the builder and the householder agree to do nothing at present but the very minimum of what is necessary. Alterations can only be carried out to save still greater expense, or downright dilapidation; and if another room is to be built on, it is "run up" and roughly finished on the lines of a War Office "annexe." Reconstruction on a large and broad basis must wait until after the war. In the meantime something ought to be done, and there is only a certain amount of energy and money to spare. The paint "must do," but the roof cannot wait, and the plumbing is provisional. Of course, it all ought to have been attended to long ago, but then—it wasn't.

The Electoral Reform Conference Recommendations are a sort of architect's estimate; they refer to the most obvious and indispensable reforms; but even so, there is no certainty that they will be accepted. When a house falls into too great disrepair it may be abandoned altogether; and there are people who are not certain that repairs are worth undertaking at all. Certainly if the tenants begin to dispute as to the colour of the paint and the system of drainage, the landlord is not encouraged to proceed; and in this instance no such excuse must be offered. The Speaker's Conference Recommendations have been a compromise, or rather, a series of delicately balanced compromises. All the recommendations have been weighed one against another, till each one represents the utmost limit to which some section of the Committee was prepared to go, in consideration of a compromise upon some other clause. It is therefore *with a whole* that Parliament is to be asked to deal, by passing a provisional measure of reform. Naturally, the first anxiety of Suffragists will be that the Suffrage resolution shall be incorporated without fail as an essential part of the whole when the Bill is drafted.

If no Women's Suffrage clause is included, the Bill will not get far. It is a plain fact that no legislation on electoral reform is now possible without the inclusion of women, and it is a fact that is universally recognised. Without some form of Women's Suffrage the Bill will not proceed; but it remains to be decided with what form it can proceed securely. The actual proposals of the Speaker's Conference are far from satisfactory, and logically they are indefensible. Anybody can see the absurdity of giving the vote to lads of twenty-one, while women-workers and women of education are excluded from the franchise for another ten years, and supposed not to reach mental and political maturity before the age of thirty or thirty-five. Everybody, again, can recognise the inconsistency of deferring the franchise to those who have "deserved well of the State," the young munition-workers who were appealed to to save the nation, and responded to the call. It is easy to point out weaknesses and defects, but a compromise is not, like a castle-wall, no stronger than its weakest point. It is the strong points which count. And the strong points of the suggested measure would be very strong indeed. We may take it that the decision arrived at by a Conference representative of opinion in the House, may to some extent foreshadow the decisions likely to be reached by the House itself, and so to have a good chance of being adopted.

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That is point number one. The acceptance of the principle of Women's Suffrage with the prospect of immediate adoption, marking, as Sir John Simon says, "an immense advance," are gains too great to be hazarded for the chance of getting more.

There are other things in our favour. At this moment there are strong forces at work impelling all men and women to sink differences and to unite for constructive work. The rising tide of a great national effort is sweeping away the cross-currents which used to neutralise and paralyse all attempts at forward movement. Not least among all these forces is the desire of men of all parties to clear the way for reform and to waste no time in haggling over details. There is, we know, a strong feeling in the country in favour of Women's Suffrage. It rests with us to take advantage of the tide.

Why Social Workers Want Women's Suffrage.

BY MISS M. CECILE MATHESON.

When Social Workers meet an anti-Suffragist, their usual resource is to try to interest her in social work. Well, they all know that certain prominent social workers are ardent "anti's," but they know also that such workers are few and far between, and that the great majority of modern social workers are also strong Suffragists.

As a class, social workers probably feel their unenfranchised position more keenly than any other body of women, for social workers have all the instincts of reformers, and to such, political helplessness must ever be galling. They are not comforted by the often-repeated adjurement to recognise how very much women can, and should, do, and to busy themselves faithfully with the present substance rather than waste time and energy in pursuit of an uncertain advantage that will surely prove to be but a shadow. Social workers are not, as a class, prone to much consideration of shadows! The concrete problems of daily life press too closely upon them, the elemental struggle for existence is all around them, and fain would they have more time and energy to grasp the many hands that are held appealingly out to them, to help human beings in their struggle, and—too often—in their distress. They have little time for shadows.

And yet—how many social workers have one by one given up their work and gone over to the active Suffragists, and the recruits that should take their place are joining them instead, and one and all give the same answer to the over-pressed social worker calling for more and yet more help. "Not yet," they cry, "not yet." "Our hearts are with you in your struggle, our interest in our old work is greater than ever, and just because of this we shall not attempt it again until the leverage of political power is in our hands. Now our work can always be retarded or undone without any reference to us, and it is no use to work like that." So helpers are withdrawn and funds are withdrawn, not, as is so often said, because women have turned from unselfish to selfish aims, but because social workers, more than any other class, have the chance to know the strong and the weak points both of the law and of its administration.

They often act as unofficial lawyers to their poor friends; they know how easy, for instance, it is to rob a poor woman of her rights under the Insurance Act, how difficult to remove a girl from morally perilous surroundings, to bring a man to justice for neglecting wife and home, or to remove an evil house from a crowded neighbourhood where it is a constant peril to healthy adolescence.

No wholesale condemnation of the law as it stands is here intended, but no one will contend that our social organisation is perfect, and changing conditions need changes in legislation. It is often urged that these changes come in time, and that the advice of experienced workers will be asked, but there is often very long to wait. The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1912, is a case in point. Legislators point proudly to that Act, insufficient though it is, and urge us to be of good cheer, for they passed that Act by request of the social workers, and without the pressure of their votes; and the social workers think sorrowfully of the years that passed before Parliament found time to pass that Act, and the lives that were lost while they waited.

Social workers do not live on mountain tops of misty ideal! They are men and women of the world, trained in a hard school of practical experience that forbids them to build a castle in the air on the hope of a future vote that shall be a panacea for social ills. They know that the vote is but a means to an end, a link in the chain of events that may make an end a reality, but all the more ardently do they desire to forge that link. The women's vote does not mean to them a sudden social regeneration, but it does mean an alteration in the balance of the Parliamentary programmes, a knowledge that Parliament has time first for those matters that have votes behind them, and that it would be found unwise to postpone many matters that, under present circumstances, enjoy several years of "academic discussion." Pure milk, infant care, the terrible social evil, in these and many other matters, Parliament should help if it cannot cure, and the women who are face to face with these dangers and difficulties are insistent that they should have their power of helpfulness reinforced, their experience utilised, and that they, too, shall be able to call Parliament to account if it forgets or mishandles the problems that are to women pre-eminently their own.

A Housing Problem.

COMMUNAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR EDUCATED WOMEN WORKERS WITH CHILDREN.

On all sides one hears that children are the greatest asset of the State, that it is of the utmost importance that child-life should be preserved and cherished, and that steps must be taken to encourage child welfare work in all directions. These are words.

Now for deeds. Nowhere are any steps, commensurate with the need, being taken to provide for children of the class which is suffering most from the reduction of income at the present time—*i.e.*, the middle-class men who have enlisted, whose wives have to join the ever-increasing number of women who find it necessary to earn money in order to live—quite apart from working from patriotic motives. Most of these women have children, and the question arises of what is to be done with them.

There are boarding schools for those who can afford it, but this number grows less as incomes decrease; besides, there are many parents who do not like boarding schools for girls. Where feasible, however, this is quite the best plan, as it gives children the necessary supervision, and keeps them under good influences.

Where this plan is not feasible, the problem is a very difficult one to solve. In so many cases the home has to be given up, and the furniture stored. It is obviously impossible for a woman to combine successfully the care and management of a house when she cannot afford to pay for competent service, and at the same time to give thorough attention to the work she has taken up. The children who are old enough must go to good day-schools, and they must be looked after while they are at home. It is clear that there are not enough people to spare for the children of each family to be looked after separately, and the best solution which presents itself is some form of communal living, where children are recognised as existing, and steps are taken to provide for them. There are plenty of clubs for ladies—although not so many as the needs of the times call for—and a few houses run on a co-operative basis; but directly one mentions children, the doors of these are no longer open.

Children are here; they are England's future; they must live, and be provided for, and it is no use shutting our eyes to the fact. The sooner houses are started to fulfil the existing need, the better for the nation as a whole.

Many more women would be able to work, and thus help the country in this time of stress, when it is so absolutely necessary that every ounce of power—whether of man or woman—should be put to the best use. Many more would be able to give their whole time for serious work, instead of doing

voluntary work when their domestic ties leave them sufficiently free to give the time—a method which, however well it begins, always ends unsatisfactorily. Regular attendance cannot be insisted on from voluntary workers, and if the work depends on them, it often dies out for want of continued support.

Further, the women who have to work, even when they cannot provide satisfactorily for their children during their absence, would be freed from an ever-present worry, which interferes with their capacity for work, and saps their energy, thus rendering their power less valuable than it would otherwise be.

The prejudice against communal living will have to be overcome; it should be considered as part of the daily sacrifice which everyone is called on to make now. Soldiers have to make it: every camp has its men who lived most exclusive lives before the war, when every man's house was his castle; now they are living and sleeping with no privacy.

In any scheme of communal housing for women it should be possible for everyone to carry out her individual taste as regards furnishing her bedrooms. It would be a great help on both sides to arrange for this; on the one hand, it would save storage, as most of the women wishing to take advantage of such a scheme have their own furniture; on the other hand, it would considerably reduce the initial cost of the scheme, which, in a very short time would be entirely self-supporting. Such a house, with several bedrooms, general dining-room, sitting-room, reading-room, and two or three small sitting-rooms for little family parties, or when husbands were home on leave, would be an inestimable boon to the hundreds of women of gentle birth who have to live on the Government allowance, plus what they can earn.

Perhaps to make it necessary for such women to work, perhaps because the country cannot afford more, the scale fixed by the Government makes it impossible to live, much less to educate and clothe children in a manner which is their due. The allowance is 12s. 6d. a week for a wife; this includes 3s. 6d. a week from her husband's pay, and she is entitled to 3s. 6d. a week extra if she lived in the London district at the time her husband joined the Army. This makes 16s. 6d. For one child there is an allowance of 7s., for the second, 5s., and 3s. for every additional child. This makes 23s. a week for a woman who has one child.*

At the present buying power of the £ this means that a woman and child who have hitherto been used to a comfortable, sheltered home, have now to live on the equivalent in purchasing power of about 14s. a week. This is impossible, and lucky is the woman who has a trade or profession at which she can work. There are many of these, who are quite willing and ready to work and take the place of men, as far as possible, but they have a right to ask that some provision shall be made for the proper care of their children, when both parents are making big sacrifices for the country.

True, in many cases relief can be obtained from the Civil Commissioners, but it seems that this is mostly allowed where the house has not been given up, and rent, rates, and taxes have to be paid. This principle is quite right, but it means that a woman having a house *must* look after it, and a potential worker is lost to the State. Further, it penalises the woman who works. The Civil Commissioners decide that she is earning sufficient money, and, therefore, her case is not eligible for further help. Mr. J. M. Hogge, M.P., in his excellent and sympathetic article in *The Daily Mail* of September 8, 1916, pointed this out, and suggested that the women who were working and helping the State now should be helped to re-establish themselves at the end of the war—a very kind sentiment, but one which is not likely to be realised.

Few women earn, proportionately, as much as men—that is to say, if the husband was earning £400 a year when he joined the Army, his wife will not be able to earn anything like this amount. She may earn £100 a year, perhaps a little more, but very probably less. This, with her £1 1s. (supposing she has one child) brings her income to somewhere about £150. The more her husband earned, and the more children she has, the worse off, relatively, will she be.

The only cheap way of buying food now is in quantities, and it seems perfectly practicable that houses should be opened in different parts of London and the country on the lines of ladies' residential clubs, but where children would be provided for and looked after. There are many women who would be only too pleased to take up this form of work, instead of going out to business, but they would have to be very carefully chosen. The caterer would have to be a very capable buyer, knowing how to combine nutritious with economical feeding, and also how to take advantage of any favourable fluctuation in the price of food. The one chosen to superintend the children should possess an immense fund of sympathy, as well as be capable of maintaining discipline.

Those working in the communal establishments would, of course, be paid, and could rightly feel that they were doing their part in war work.

Any scheme enabling educated women to become workers would greatly benefit the country. Education helps in all work, even in manual labour, where the woman who can use her brains sees the quickest and best way of accomplishing any given piece of work, and consequently increases her output; but for the work for which such women are particularly wanted—work which requires intelligence, and the doing of which will release a man for the Colours—the middle class provides a large and practically untouched field. The majority of these women are anxious to work, and the provision of suitable homes for themselves and their children—for the duration of the war—would help considerably in the solution of the pressing problem of obtaining man-and woman-power.

Diana T. Wilkins.

* In the Board of Trade Returns for December 1st, 1916, 12s. 6d. is given as the present value of the pound.

Deportation of Women and Girls in Northern France.

We published in last week's issue a letter which Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, President of L'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes has addressed to Mrs. Fawcett, President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, giving documentary evidence of the horrors perpetrated in Lille, Roubaix, and Tourcoing, by command of the German military authorities. Further corroborating evidence has now been forwarded by Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, who adds that the serious aspect of these atrocities is that they are not isolated instances of the almost inevitable miseries of war, but are deliberately organised by the military authority. It is said that everything depends upon the Kommandatur, and that at Valenciennes, for instance, the state of things is less bad.

One of the worst features of the deportations is that women and girls, with a revolver held at their heads, were made to sign documents in ignorance of their contents; they believed that they were required to work in the fields. They were then taken, not to Germany, but to the rest-camps behind the German lines, and handed over to the soldiery. Those who return are broken down in health, or driven insane by the treatment to which they have been subjected.

Mme. de Witt Schlumberger asks that women in every country, Allied, enemy, or neutral, should raise their voices in protest. Documents have been circulated to a number of women's societies, together with a resolution expressing in some faint way what all ordinary people must feel on such a subject. The resolution and signatures are given below. The number of signatures could easily have been increased tenfold had it not been that time pressed.

The under-mentioned women's societies desire to unite in a deep expression of horror and indignation at the atrocities described in the accompanying documents, and also in offering their profound sympathy with the whole French nation and other nations suffering from such barbarities.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
National Union of Women Workers.
Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.
Young Women's Christian Association of Great Britain and Ireland.
Men's League for Women's Suffrage.
Hastings and St. Leonards W.S. Propaganda League.
Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.
Friends' League for Women's Suffrage.
New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.
Actresses' Franchise League.
Women's Tax Resistance League.
Women's Freedom League.
Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
London Society for Women's Suffrage.
Liberal Women's Suffrage Union.
Irish Women's Suffrage Federation.
Church League for Women's Suffrage.
Women's Local Government Society.
Scottish Churches League for Woman Suffrage.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D
Hon. Secretaries:
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)
Hon. Treasurer:
MRS. AUERBACH.
Secretary:
MISS HELEN WRIGHT.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

Mr. Alfred Corner's new book, "The End of Male Ascendency" (price 4s.), reviewed in last week's COMMON CAUSE, is now on sale; also the "Pudding Lady's Recipe Book," containing 300 economical and tasty dishes (1s., postage 1d.).

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916	846	13	11
Received from February 5th to 10th, 1917:—			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Miss E. J. Sloane		10	6
Miss Yvonne C. P. Ruffer ...		2	6
Mrs. Heitland	2	2	0
Mrs. Robie Uniacke	1	0	0
Mrs. Brownlow		5	0
Mr. John Sowter		1	0
AFFILIATION FEES.			
Central Sussex W.S.S.	2	5	0
Swindon and N. Wilts W.S.S. ...		6	0
Leicester and Leicestershire W.S.S.	1	8	6
Aldershot W.S.S.		15	3
West Herts W.S.S.		13	9
Nuneaton W.S.S.		5	0
Scarborough W.S.S.	1	17	6
West Bromwich W.S.S. ...	2	11	0
Cardiff W.S.S.	11	5	0
Glasgow W.S.S.	13	15	0
Gloucester W.S.S.	1	1	6
Hawick W.S.S.		13	6
Kilmacolm W.S.S.		12	6
Sunderland W.S.S.	2	2	0
Marple W.S.S.	1	6	3
Gt. Yarmouth W.S.S. (instalment)		2	6
Liverpool W.S.S.	8	2	6
East Herts W.S.S.	1	17	6
GENERAL SERVICE FUND DONATIONS.			
Miss E. R. Ballings		10	0
Mrs. Murray		5	0
Staff Gloucestershire School of Domestic Science (21st donation Belgian Relief)	2	10	0
	£905	0	2

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

POSTAL ORDERS should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

TREASURY NOTES should be treated like coins, and *always* registered.

If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the SECRETARY, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the SECRETARY, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

FIFTY-SECOND LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	10,365	3	0
Miss M. Tasker		5	0
Miss F. Andress		5	0
Miss Elsie Blomfield		5	0
Miss Winifred Woodcock ...		5	0
Miss M. Farrow		6	6
Capt. T. W. Christian, R.N. ...	2	0	0
Mr. H. M. Gregory	5	0	0
Miss Eleanor M. Thompson ...	3	0	0
Miss Edith Neville	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Lowe ...		10	0
Solihull W.S.S.	2	2	0
Miss Fanny Graham		5	0
Mrs. Wade Earp		2	6
Gerrard's Cross W.S.S. (additional)	5	0	0
The Misses Oliver Jones ...	2	10	6
Mrs. J. W. Whitworth		3	0
Miss M. Parton Parry		5	0
The Misses K. Gray and E. Priestman		10	6
Mrs. Duff Greet	1	1	0
Mrs. T. S. Bartlett	2	2	0
Mrs. F. H. Gossage	10	0	0
Basingstoke W.S.S.:—			
Mr. T. H. Wright		5	0
Miss Gertrude Burgess		10	0
Chelmsford W.S.S.:—			
Miss R. Christy		5	0
Mrs. Mauds		5	0
Miss Bancroft		5	0
Mr. and Miss Mark		5	0
Newmarket W.L.A.		5	0
Mrs. Allan	2	2	0
Miss E. C. Matravers	1	0	0
Mrs. Rowe	5	0	0
Miss Ethel M. Naish	2	0	0
	£10,914	4	0

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selbourne, or to Miss Stirling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith-street, London, S.W. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

"The Common Cause" Hut.

We have great pleasure in announcing that our readers' Hut Fund has now reached the total of £618; but we still peed more money to complete the furnishing and equipment of the Hut.

We want also to thank yet another of our Societies, which has held a meeting, and made a special effort to help the Hut.

Contributions will be gratefully received by the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	595	2	6
Mrs. H. Wright	10	0	0
Miss Caroline Croal		2	6
Miss Heckles		5	0
Miss Graz Allen	1	0	0
Miss H. C. Hankes		2	6
Miss Anna Evans		5	0
Brentwood Society for W.S. ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Holman		7	5
Miss Margaret Foster		5	0
Ealing Society for W.S. (Drawing-room Meeting Collection (£1 0s. 4d.), Mrs. M. Evershed (£5), Miss A. Evershed (£1) (1st instalment)		7	0	4
Miss Farmer...		1	0	0
Miss D. A. Courtney		1	1	0
Mrs. E. Macmillan		1	1	0
	£618	12	3

AN OMISSION.

Among the names of guests at the luncheon given by the N.U.W.S.S. to the Premier of New Zealand and Sir J. G. Ward, there should have been included the representatives of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, Miss H. Newcomb and Miss M. Hodge.

Correspondence.

[To save delay, letters to the Editor should in all cases be written upon one side of the paper only, and posted so as to reach the office of THE COMMON CAUSE *not later than Tuesday morning.]*

MADAM,—May I use your columns to draw attention to one aspect of the problem of National Service for Women, which seems to be overlooked by some.

In the crisis of 1914, when discussion on all controversial topics was suspended, and when the army was organised on a voluntary basis, the National Union voluntarily mobilised itself for national service. The situation to-day has changed. Electoral reform is once more a burning question, conscription of men for the army is an accomplished fact, and conscription of men and women for other forms of national service is freely discussed. Members of the National Union undoubtedly disagree on the question of conscription in itself, but there is a vast difference between being conscripted as a citizen and being conscripted as a member of an unenfranchised section of the community, and I think there can be no doubt that we shall all resent the conscription of women for any form of national service unless a measure for the enfranchisement of women has first found its place in the statute book. Under the present circumstances, and *until our enfranchisement is an accomplished fact*, I submit the National Union should pass no resolution, and take no steps which might lead those in authority to suppose we shall willingly accept the conscription of women.

While discussion of electoral reform was suspended, we were free to give our organisation to national service. Now that the Government has raised the question of electoral reform, and the question of Women's Enfranchisement is still in doubt, we must again give the energy of our organisation to the one and only question which binds us together.

ERIE EVANS.

MADAM,—In October, 1915, I appealed to the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE for the work of the Women's Patrol Committee, and my appeal met with a generous response. The work of the Committee is still urgently needed; it has been carried on with most encouraging success, and has met with hearty recognition from the authorities. Now we are again in immediate need of funds, and I feel sure your readers will do their part to keep the work going vigorously.

I am assuming that they will have seen reports of the work from time to time, but if this is not so, I should be very glad to send any who wish for it the last report on the Progress of the Women's Patrol movement which was issued by the Committee in January, 1917.

AGNES GARRETT, *Hon. Treasurer*,
2, Gower Street, W.C. Women's Patrol Committee.

MADAM,—I have read with the deepest interest in your issue of February 9th, the appeal of Mme. de Witt Schlumberger to the women of all countries as to the German deportation of the women and girls of France, Belgium, and Serbia. I rejoice greatly that women are being

THEY MUST NOT STARVE

OF the many appeals made to the public at this time, that for the BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR is one from which none of us can turn aside.

If we who are at home, and free, are tired out, fretted and worried by the long strain, how much more must these men be wearied by the long, dreary waiting in captivity for the end of the great struggle!

Lonely and ill-fed, they drag out their miserable existence day after day without even proper news of what is going on, and nothing we can do for them is too much when we remember the unspeakable sacrifices they have made for us.

How can we forget the men who have lost their liberty in endeavouring to obtain freedom for us? We must try to spare something, however small, to show that we appreciate our privileges, and are grateful to those who lost their freedom for our sakes and in defence of their country.

DONATIONS to this Fund will be gratefully received by the

Rev. HUGH B. CHAPMAN, 7, SAVOY HILL, LONDON, W.C.

THE ROYAL SAVOY ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR

Registered Under the War Charities Act.
Authorised by the Central Prisoners of War Committee.

asked to speak out forcibly and express their deep-rooted indignation against the Germans for their barbarism—a barbarism worse than ever we have heard of in ancient times. In ancient and all times, no doubt, soldiers have rushed red-handed, when their blood was up, and dragged off women; but this has been done in a cold-blooded, deliberate, calculating way, showing that German commanders are rather fiends than men.

You do not tell us in what way we may testify our horror. Will you kindly learn from Mme. Schlumberger and inform us in your next issue? Can the appeal be circulated for signature? It has been terrible to sit still while such things went on, especially for those who have been brought up on the ideas expressed by Lowell in his "Ode to Freedom," where he appeals to American women:—

"Women, who will one day bear
Sons to breathe New England air,
If ye hear without a blush,
Deeds to make the red blood rush
Like hot lava through your veins,
For your sisters now in chains,
Answer are ye fit to be,
Mothers of the brave and free?"

Elizabeth Cobb.

[We much regret that, owing to pressure on our space, we are obliged to hold over a number of letters this week.]

FROM A LETTER FROM THE FRONT.

"What a lovely surprise I got last night. The Post Orderly came round and called out, 'Here's a parcel for you, Corporal.' The contents were splendid, and what I loved most of all was that little volume of Omar. My heart really bounded when I saw it, as I love old Omar, and I have found a comrade who also knows him. He was a quiet chap who rarely said more than 'good morning' or 'good night,' but somehow I was attracted by him, and we became chums. One morning early I went to call him, and, as I rapped on the wood which answered as a door, I began quoting, 'Awake for the morning in the bowl of night,' he simply said 'Omar.' Many hours we spend talking of what we most need in England in the way of reforms. A more ardent supporter of the women's cause I have never met. He talks for hours on the great possibilities of the Old Country if she will only give her women a chance to show not only what they can do, but what they are made of. The other books you sent I am also grateful for. Somehow you know several people have the idea that all Tommies like sensational stories. Many do, but there are a few who prefer something else. I can tell you, your volumes have already had a circle mapped out for them to travel. It was, 'After you, Harry.'"

WOMEN AND THE EMPIRE.

The Imperial War. By A. M. de Beck. (Hurst & Blackett. 6s.)

In the chapter entitled "Woman after the War" Mr. de Beck pays a tribute to Britain's womanhood, and admits that woman's position in the world has enormously improved since August, 1914, and that the improvement has been effected by the women themselves. He says that the vote can no longer be denied, and that women should be allowed a voice, especially in questions which apply particularly to their own sex, and then goes on to point out that it would be very difficult to say where women's interests begin or end. It was the custom, for instance, to say women had no interest in foreign politics, but these are of the most vital importance to women, as upon our relations with foreign countries all peace and war depend. If woman's interests are not bound up with such questions as this, then with what are they concerned? Women must bear a share in the rule and governance of their country just as much as men. Further, Mr. de Beck says, with regard to the question of the women in politics: "I cannot imagine any field in the world of politics where her influence would not make itself felt, and felt for the good of the whole Commonwealth. Women, in the future, will be a factor of enormous Imperial importance. Women can at once begin to spread the glory of the Empire over the whole of Great Britain. I would gladly, if I could, equip and send forth a band of women who would go through the United Kingdom expounding the glories and possibilities, the capacities and potentialities of the Empire, and the opportunities it is offering with both hands to the women of the future."

The Feeding of Children in War-Time, by Charles E. Hecht, Hon. Secretary of the National Food Reform Association, shows the short-sighted economy of underfeeding children, and makes suggestions for obtaining the best food values at the lowest price.

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Size In.	Plush, or Flannel Covers, extra Each.	Each.
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12 x 8	4/9	1/3
12 x 10	5/9	1/6

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DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Further donations will be gratefully received either by Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock, at Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; by Miss Morrison, Hon. Treasurer Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Committee S.W.H., 202, Hope Street, Glasgow, or by the Joint Hon. Treasurers for the London Committee, the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves and Lady Cowdray, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

	£	s.	d.
Forward, as per list to February 1st, 1917	166,711	14	10½
Further donations received to February 8th, 1917:—			
*Per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas., January list of donations from the Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Committee, per Miss Millar, for "Ruthergien" beds—Rutherglen Children's beds, "I," "II.," "III," and "Yvonne," (further for 1 year), Mrs. Eadie, Auction Sale (£220), Mrs. R. K. Rodger (£96 10s.), Miss Evans and Miss Warden, further receipts from Café Chantant (£4 6s. 9d.)	320	16	9
Employees of Caledonian Railway, per D. Hathorn, Esq. ...	83	9	10
Flag Day at Stranraer, per Provost Dyer	71	2	9
Ayr W.S.S., per Miss McCullock, Mrs. Abbott, to name "Margaret Jessie Cable" bed (£50), Mrs. Little, to name "Lillian Little" bed (£50)	100	0	0
Per Mrs. Brown (further) "Cambuslang" bed, Bring and Buy Sale (£45 19s.), Lady Frances Balfour's Meeting (£18 10s.)	64	9	0
The Misses Morrison "Ruadhsgeir" bed (further)	50	0	0
Mrs. Kerr, proceeds of Edith Cavell Car Tour, towards upkeep of "Saltcoats" bed ...	25	13	0
Miss Buchanan, to name "M. Buchanan" bed at Salonika	25	0	0
Mrs. Guy, to name "Carsaig" bed at Salonika (Girton and Newnham Unit) ...	25	0	0
Per Captain H. Murray Dunlop	22	1	0
Employees of Messrs. Hunter, Barr & Co.	12	12	0
M.A.S. (further), "Surgo" bed	12	10	0
Members of St. Vincent Club...	12	0	0
Mrs. Adams, per Lady MacAlister	10	0	0
Mrs. G. B. Crookston, per Messrs. G. H. Robb	10	0	0
Employees of Messrs. Denny & Co., Dumbarton	10	0	0
*Employees of Messrs. Wm. Simons & Co. Ltd.	9	0	2
Glasgow and West of Scotland Newsagents, Booksellers, and Stationers' Association...	9	0	0
Employees of Messrs. Beattie (monthly)	5	7	4
Mrs. Farquhar	5	0	0
Newlands Parish Church, Women's Guild, per Miss J. J. Miller	5	0	0
Beardsden South U.F. Girls' Auxiliary, per Miss R. F. Hamilton	5	0	0
*Trongate Yards, and Fitzroy Employees of Messrs. P. & W. McLennan Ltd.	4	8	5
Head Office Staff, Nobels Ltd.	3	3	9
Miss A. McD. Teacher (Meatless Days)	2	16	9
The Misses Bennie & Smith's Classes (Corsica)	2	10	0
The Misses Falconer and Grimshaw (Salonica)	2	10	0
Employees Messrs. Cassel, Cyanide & Co.	2	0	0
Wm. H. Carslaw, Esq.	2	0	0
Miss Mackay	2	0	0
Messrs. James Meighan & Sons	1	1	0
M. Ferguson	1	1	0
Mr. McCracken	1	0	0
Miss McKinnel, per Miss Montgomerie	1	0	0
Lieut. J. H. Carslaw	1	0	0
Mrs. Gillan	1	0	0
Miss Gillan	1	0	0
Mrs. Burnley Campbell... ...	1	0	0
Miss A. Fulton, per Women's Friendly Society		13	0
Miss Roddie, per Women's Friendly Society		12	0
Staff at Fordoun Station ...		12	0
Employees "Glasgow Observer"		11	6
Mrs. Pryor (further)		10	0
Mrs. Welsh, per Miss Montgomery		10	0
Miss McCallum (Los Angeles)		10	0
Mrs. Taylor		10	0
Mrs. Smith		10	0
Mrs. Fleming		5	0
Miss Montgomerie		2	6
Mrs. Terrace		2	6
Mr. Docherty		2	0
Teachers of Domestic Science (additional)		1	6
Miss Young		1	0
Total £929 6s. 9d., less expenses £29 5s. 9d. Total £880 1s.			
*The Misses Gowan	30	0	0
Per Miss Jean White, the Senior Girls' Class, in Montrose Congregational Church Sunday School, Glasgow ...		6	0
*Per Miss Bury, further donations as result of Meetings: Theosophical Society, Miss Lawson, (£1 6s. 2d.), Messrs. Lyons & Sons, Employees (4s. 8d.), Messrs. Alex Pirie, Employees (£2), The Paper Works, Coulter, Lantern Lecture at Coulter, nr. Aberdeen (£1 13s. 6d.), Messrs. Paterson & Sons, Craiginches, Sawmills and Employees, Aberdeen (£2 5s.), Messrs. Smith's Woollen Mills, Employees, Peterhead (17s. 6½d.), Lantern Lecture at Kennay (£1 14s. 9d.), Lantern Lecture at Kintore (£2 10s.), Lantern Lecture at Turriff (£3), Aberdeen Preserving Co., Employees (14s.)	16	5	7½
*Per Miss Moir, Hon. Treas., Falkirk W.S.S., Miss Nimmo	5	0	0
*Per Miss Moir, Hon. Treas., Falkirk W.S.S., Bainsford S.M.A., per Mrs. Duncan ...	1	0	0
*Per Miss F. M. Verrall, Hon. Sec., Holt W.S.S., proceeds of Tickets sold at Lantern Lecture	4	14	0
*Per Miss H. B. Paterson, Treas., W.S.S. (further instalment from Haddington W.S.S., to maintain the "Lamp of Lothian" and "Haddington" beds for the next 6 months)	39	16	0
*Per Mrs. Fleming, Hon. Treas., W.S.S., further donations from Melrose W.S.S. ...	2	11	6
*Per Miss Grace Warrack, further donations towards "Noel" bed in Salonika: Miss Hill (1s.), Miss H. M. Stodart (10s.), Miss Baird and Miss Matheson (10s.), Miss Grace Warrack (9s.), Mrs. John Thomson (10s.), Mrs. Underhill (—), Miss Oliphant (10s.)	3	0	0
Per Mrs. E. Beck, collected by Members of the Co-operative Women's Guild, to name a "Co-op. Women's Guild" bed in Salonika, for 6 months (3rd instalment)	17	9	4
*Per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas., Edinburgh W.S.S., R. E. Davis, Esq. (10s.), *Employees of Duncan Flockhart & Co. (£5)	5	10	0
Employees of Grangemouth Iron Co.	2	10	6
Employees of Dorrator Iron Co. Ltd., Falkirk...	1	5	0
Per Miss Marion E. Anderson, from Teachers of Highholm Public School, Port-Glasgow	2	4	0
*Per Miss M. A. Green, Hon. Treas., Broomsgrove W.S.S. for further "Broomsgrove" bed, in Salonika ...	50	0	0
Per Mrs. M. A. McLagan, from a Soldier's Mother		3	0
*Per John A. Forsyth, Esq., from Kirkwall branch of N.U.W.S.S., towards the "Orcadian" bed	16	0	0
*J. G. Thorburn, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Margoliouth, D.W.S.S. (Serbia)	1	10	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson, *Employees of Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy (£9 4s.), *Employees of Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£3 0s. 5d.), *Employees of Messrs. M. Muir & Co., Builders (9s.), Women Munition Workers in Messrs. A. Barclay & Son's Works, per Mrs. Wylie (17s.)	13	10	5
*Per Mrs. Macdiarmid, Applecross U.F. Church Girls' Auxiliary, for Serbian Relief	1	0	0
*Mrs. M. Hay		10	0
Liverpool W.S.S., per Mrs. Derbyshire, per Appeals Committee	1	12	0
Miss Helen A. and Miss Winnie Methven	4	0	0
Mrs. J. H. Beveridge, M.D., to name a "J.H.B. by War Work" bed (American Unit)	25	0	0
Mrs. Heatley Dickson ...	2	2	0
*Per Mrs. Ellis, Hon. Treas., W.S.S (monthly donation)...	15	0	0
*Per Miss Isabella Kerr, Local Hon. Sec., S.W.H. (1st instalment from "Greenock Waste Paper and Waste Material Scheme"	5	0	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, Greenock East End Co-operative Society (£3 3s.), Employees Greenock East End Co-operative Society (£2) ...	5	3	0

	£	s.	d.
*Per Mrs. Paterson, Hon. Treas., W.S.S., Miss M. Brady (quarterly subscription) ...		6	6
Per A. A. Symon, Esq., collection taken at a United Intercessory Service, in Ladyloan U.F. Church		13	11
Miss Beveridge	1	0	0
Dock Office Staff, Messrs. James Currie & Co., per W. H. Louden, Esq.	2	10	0
*Per Miss Clara Brunner, Hon. Treas., W.S.S. (further donations from Liverpool W.S.S., for upkeep of "Liverpool" bed, at Royaumont	25	0	0
Edward Tozer, Esq.	5	5	0
*Per Miss Euphemia W. R. Allison, Hon. Treas., W.S.S., 13th donation from Staff of Kinnouil School, Perth ...		12	6
*Per Miss Bury, Fraserburgh on Sunday evening (£2 9s. 4d.), proceeds of Lantern Lecture at Londside (£2 10s.), donation from Mr. Charles Penny (£1)	5	19	4
*Per Miss H. B. Walker, Hon. Treas., W.S.S., further donations from Dewsbury W.S.S.		10	0
	£167.911	1	6

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Albourn" (Royaumont)	Miss Russell.
"Margaret Jessie Cable (American Unit) (1 year)	Per Mrs. Morrison, per Miss McCulloch, per Mrs. Abbott.
"Lillian Little" (American Unit) (1 year)	Per Mrs. Morrison, Miss McCulloch, Ayr W.S.S., Mrs. Abbott.
"Cambusiang" (France) (further 1 year)	Per Mrs. Brown, per Mrs. Morrison.
"Ruadhsgeir" (France) (further 1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, per the Misses Morrison.
"Saltcoats" (Salonika) (further 6 months)	Per Miss Morrison, per Mrs. Kerr, proceeds of Edith Cavell Car Tour.
"M. Buchanan" (Dr. M'Ilroy, Salonika) (6 months)	Per Miss Morrison, per Miss Buchanan.
"Carsaig" (Girton and Newnham Unit, Salonika) (6 months)	Per Mrs. Morrison, per Mrs. Guy.
"Surgo" (Royaumont) (further 3 months)	Per Miss Morrison, per M.A.S.
"Haddington" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Per Miss H. B. Paterson, Treas., W.S.S., Teviot Lodge, Haddington.
"Lamp of Lothian (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Per Miss Paterson, Treas., W.S.S., Teviot Lodge, Haddington.
"Co-operative Women's Guild (Salonika) (6 months)	Per Mrs. E. Beck, 13, Brucefield Avenue, Dunfermline.
"Broomsgrove" (Salonika) (further 1 year)	Per Miss Green, Hon. Treas., Broomsgrove W.S.S.
"J. H. B. by War Work" (American Unit, Salonika) (6 months)	Per Mrs. J. H. Beveridge, M.D., 70, Thirlestane Road, Edinburgh.
"Liverpool" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Per Miss Clara Brunner, Hon. Treas., W.S.S., from Liverpool W.S.S.
"Rutherglen" (Royaumont) (further 1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas., Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Committee, per Miss Millar, Rutherglen.
"Rutherglen Children I." (Corsica) (further 1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, per Miss Millar
"Rutherglen Children II." (Corsica) (further 1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, per Miss Millar
"Rutherglen Children III." (Corsica) (further 1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, per Miss Millar.
"Burnside" (Royaumont) (further 1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, per Miss Millar.
"Yvonne" (further 1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, per Miss Millar.

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Already acknowledged ...	24,971	5	11
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Anstruther's Meeting, Mrs. ...	29	19	6
Ashmore, per Lady	20	0	0
A Yorkshire Friend	5	5	0
Barnes Women's Suffrage Society, per Mrs. Clennell ...	1	4	0
Bessie, Nora, Winifred and Nöel	1	1	0
Blane, per Mrs.	12	0	0
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Bonsor, Mrs.		2	6
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Caledonian Society of London	10	10	0
Calvert, Mrs.	1	1	0
Campbell, Dr. C. J.	10	0	0
Campbell, Dr. Janet M. ...	5	0	0
Chanmont, Miss A. S. I. ...	2	0	0
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Clements, Mrs.	2	2	0
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Connolly, Mrs.		16	0
Craig, Miss	1	1	0
Curwen, Esq., J.	1	1	0
Curwen, per Miss (Aldershot)	8	10	5
D'Aeth, Miss F. M.	1	1	0
Fellows, Miss F.		2	6
Fletcher, Miss Gertrude ...		5	0
Friends and Servants of Miss Gillett	1	7	6
Glyde, Miss		10	0
Graham, Miss		5	0
Graham, Mrs. Edgar, and Miss Rose	3	3	0
Henderson, Per Miss	1	0	0
Henrique, Miss E. Q.	3	3	0
Hinde, Mrs. (monthly donation)		5	0
Hobson, Miss	5	0	0
Hodgson, Mrs. Willoughby ...		10	0
Humfrys, Mrs.	1	1	0
Hunter, Per Miss	24	6	0
Jefferd, Mrs.		10	0
Kinnell's Meeting, Mrs. ...	122	9	5
"Kossovo Day"	5	18	0
Lake, Mr.	1	0	0
Lanzs, Mrs.	50	0	0
L. H. W.	5	0	0
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Lodge, Mrs.	5	0	0
L. O. M.	1	0	0
Luton Women's Suffrage Society, per Miss Curwen	5	3	6
Mackintosh, Mrs.	1	1	0
McVeagh, The Rev. Thomas ...	1	0	0
Marrack, Mrs.		5	0
Martelli, Esq., F.	1	0	0
Moffat, Miss	2	2	0
Murphy, Mrs.	5	0	0
Murphy, Lady Mary	1	0	0
The Ocean Staff	3	3	0
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Petrie, Per Mrs. Flinders ...	2	17	0
Phillips, Esq., H.		10	0
Poole, Miss and Form IIIa ...	1	0	0
Proceeds of Entertainment, per Miss Wilkie	14	5	6
Rendel, Mrs. A. B.	1	1	0
Rendel's Meeting, Mrs. Herbert (Collection)	12	2	9
Rendel's Meeting, Sale of Postcards	1	9	6
Rogers, Collected by Miss Mary W.		11	0
Sainsbury, Esq., J.	1	1	0
Sargood, Sec.-Lieut. F. E. ...	5	0	0
Sennah Rubber Company ...	10	10	0
Smith, Per the Misses, further Collection from Meeting ...		15	0
Staff and Pupils of Leytonstone High School for Girls ...	66	0	0
Storrs, Mrs. Francis	1	1	0
Thomas, Miss	2	2	0
Thompson, Mrs. C.	3	0	0
Turnbull, Esq., James	2	0	0
Two Britishers in Suakim ...	3	0	0
Webb, Miss E. M.		10	0
Woodseats' Friends' Adult School (Bed for Quaker) ...	12	10	0
	£26,530	9	10

In response to our appeal for furniture for the new offices at 66, Victoria-street, we have already had enough gifts and loans of tables and chairs. The rooms are now furnished, thanks to the generosity of the Joint Parliamentary Advisory Committee, and Mrs. H. P. Cobb, and Messrs. Maple.

We still require some smaller furnishings, as follows:—A hearthrug, two cocoanut doormats, four foot-stools, baize boards, glazed picture frames, balance letter-weigher, five fire-guards, looking glass, clocks.

H. FLINDERS PETRIE,
Hon. Sec. London Units.

Items of Interest.

Miss Caroline Herford, who has just been elected to the Manchester City Council, is lecturer and demonstrator in education at Manchester University, a member of the University Committee of the Workers' Education Association, and a staunch suffragist. Since the outbreak of the war she has found time to help to organise a Voluntary Aid Detachment among university women. Miss Herford, who was warmly welcomed by her colleagues, is the third woman City Councillor in Manchester. Miss Ashton was elected in 1908, and Mrs. Redford in 1910.

Mrs. Mary E. Cottrell, who was nominated by the Labour party to represent the Selly Oak Ward on the Birmingham City Council, has been elected to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of Mr. G. Shann to the Aldermanic bench. She is the fourth woman to be elected to the Birmingham City Council, and is the first woman Labour Councillor.

Mrs. Cottrell has already had an interesting and varied public career. Ten years ago she contested a vacancy on the Birmingham Board of Guardians for the Selly Oak Ward, and since that time she has been associated with many public bodies, and shown considerable activity in social work. She is a member of the Birmingham Insurance Committee, by nomination of the National Insurance Commissioners through the Women's Co-operative Guild, having taken a prominent part in the co-operative movement, both local and general. She is also a member of the Citizens' Committee for naval and military pensions (statutory and non-statutory).

Mrs. Tennant (*née* May Abraham), whose appointment as director of the Women's Department of National Service we announced last week, was the first woman factory inspector in this country, being appointed by Mr. Asquith in 1893. Before her marriage to Mr. A. J. Tennant, M.P., late Secretary for Scotland, she acted as private secretary to the late Lady Dilke, and in that position made herself acquainted with every phase of women's work. She helped in the formation of the Women's Trade Union League, and did very valuable work in the organisation of women workers, who, up to that time, were quite unorganised except in the textile trade. In 1914, at the request of the Army Council, she made a special enquiry into the subject of soldiers marrying "off the strength."

Miss Violet Markham (married, since the outbreak of war to Major James Carruthers, M.V.O., D.S.O.), is well known as a student of social economics, and also as a writer and speaker. She is a member of the Central Committee on women's employment, and was on the Board of Trade and Home Office Joint Committee which, under the presidency of Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, M.P., dealt with the question of substituting women for men. Miss Markham was at one time an opponent of women's suffrage, but it is understood that she has now somewhat modified her views.

WOMEN TAXI-CAB DRIVERS FOR LONDON.—The Commissioner of Police has at last decided to licence women as drivers of taxi-cabs, this step having been rendered necessary by the decision of the Army Council that certain drivers, hitherto exempted by the tribunals, must now be called for service with the Colours. Already busy people have been put to great inconvenience by the shortage of taxi-cabs and the incivility of many of the drivers who remain, while women have amply proved their capacity for driving in heavy traffic by their handling of motor-vans and other vehicles. So far, there has been no decision to employ women as drivers of motor-'buses, which is far heavier work.

The French Director of Primary Education has visited Rheims to bestow the Cross of the Legion of Honour on Mlle. Fouriaux, a sixteen-year-old school teacher. When the enemy advanced towards Rheims Mlle. Fouriaux helped to remove the wounded, and subsequently returned to the city, walking a distance of nearly twenty miles by night. She remained in Rheims during the German occupation, and, despite the enemy's bombardment, went on with the duties of her school.

Another heroine of France is Marcelle

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Nurses' Sister Dora Caps, 8½d, 10½d, 1/- each.

Ladies' Linen H.S. **Handkerchiefs**, 2/6, 3/6, 4/6 half-dozen.

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MANCHESTER.

Semmer, who has been decorated with the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honour.

During the retreat in August, 1914, after the French had crossed the Somme and its Canal, pursued by the enemy, Marcelle Semmer, under the enemy's fire, had the presence of mind to open the sluice gates in order to prevent them from crossing the canal, thus holding them up until the following morning.

Remaining in the village, the girl was able to pick up and to hide underground sixteen exhausted French soldiers, whom she helped to escape in civilian clothes. Having been caught by the enemy in the act of feeding a French soldier hidden in a thicket, she was condemned to death. When questioned, she replied: "I am an orphan, and have but one mother—France. Do with me what you will."

She was on the point of being executed when a *rafale* from the French artillery dispersed the Germans. She then hid in an underground vault, and was saved next day when the village was retaken by the French. While serving as a guide to a patrol she was again taken prisoner, but after being shut up in a church she escaped and regained the French lines.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has announced that a committee of Bishops and scholars has been appointed to consider the position of women in the Church.

The American Red Cross has just completed a scheme of organisation which gives it twenty-five base hospital units, with a staff of 1,875 trained nurses and V.A.D. workers, and a reserve of more than 1,000 nurses and helpers. Only fully trained women may rank as nurses in the American Red Cross, and 7,000 of them in different parts of the country are enrolled ready for service if required. Between 200 and 300 American nurses have had experience in war hospitals in France.

THE EALING AND ACTON BRANCH of the London Society held a meeting on the afternoon of February 9th, at 37, Uxbridge-road, by the kind invitation of Miss Debac. There was a good attendance of members to hear an address by Mrs. Alys Russell on "Women and Electoral Reform." Mrs. Russell laid special stress on the need for unity among suffragists at the present critical time, and appealed for the help of all members for the Queen's Hall Demonstration on February 20th. Miss Longley, manager of THE COMMON CAUSE, described the work of the Y.W.C.A. huts, and, at the close of the meeting, a collection was taken amounting to £7 0s. 4d. for THE COMMON CAUSE Hut, which is to be presented by the N.U.W.S.S. Members took away with them collecting cards, and it is hoped there will be further sums to add week by week. A good number of demonstration tickets were sold.

ON February 5th, Miss Curwen gave an account of the Scottish Women's Hospitals to the congregation of Ilford Presbyterian Church. The snow prevented many people from attending, but, in spite of that, £3 was collected, and six collecting cards given out. On February 8th, Miss Curwen spoke on the Scottish Women's Hospitals to the Leytonstone County School. This school has shown great enthusiasm, and has lately collected the magnificent sum of £66 towards the funds of the London Unit. One of the staff of mistresses is now acting as clerk to Mrs. Haverfield.

Forthcoming Meetings.

FEBRUARY 16.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Speaker: Mrs. Blair—Subject: "The Farmhouse in Relation to Food and Labour Problems" 4.30

Edinburgh.—Cairgmillar Hall of Residence for Students—Speaker: Miss Alice Low—Subject: "Pathetic Stories" 5.45

Hitchin.—Annual Meeting of Hitchin and Stevenage District Society at the Welcome Club, Paynes Park—Speaker: Mrs. O. Strachey 3.0

FEBRUARY 18.

Ascot—At Ascotwood Cottage (by kind permission of the H.H. The Ranee of Sarawak)—A lecture, followed by a concert, will be given in aid of the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units—Speakers: Mrs. Alys Russell and Dr. King Atkinson—Admission by ticket 2.30

Birmingham—Aston Labour Church—Speaker: Miss Geraldine Cook 6.30

Caxton Hall—National Joint Committee of Post Office Associations and London Society for Women's Suffrage—Meeting of Women Postal Workers at Caxton Hall, Victoria Street—Chairman: Mr. G. H. Stuart-Bunning—Speakers: Mrs. Henry Fawcett and Mrs. O. Strachey 11.0

FEBRUARY 19.

Islington—St. Peter's Parish Hall, Brunswick Road, Dartmouth Park Road—Speaker: Miss Swankie Cameron—Subject: "Our Share in Success and Defeat"

Lowestoft—Annual Meeting, Reddish's Rooms Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby — Subject: "Women's Suffrage and Electoral Reform"—A hearty welcome will be given to all visitors

FEBRUARY 20.

St. Pancras—East St. Pancras W.L.A., Gladstone House, High Street, Camden Town—Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Fisher—Subject: "The Present Position of Women's Suffrage" 3.30

FEBRUARY 21.

Birmingham—Harborne Co-operative Guild—Speaker: Miss Palmer 2.30

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street 3.5

FEBRUARY 27.

Warwick and Leamington—Annual Meeting at 35, Warwick Street, Leamington—Speakers: Mrs. Arbuthnot—Chair: Miss Sergeant—Subscriptions are now due 3.0

Winchester—A Meeting in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals will be held at the Guildhall—Speaker: Mrs. Shaw McLaren

FEBRUARY 28.

Worthing—A Meeting in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals will take place at the Lecture Hall, Shelley Road—Speaker, Mrs. Shaw McLaren 3.0

Scottish Women's Hospital Meetings

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 3 p.m.—St. Michael's Hall, Lansdowne Road, Brighton — Scottish Women's Hospitals—Speakers: Professor Popovic and Miss May Curwen.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 7.30 p.m. — Roedean School, Brighton—Scottish Women's Hospitals—Speakers: Dr. Curcin and Miss May Curwen.

We ask all those readers who are living in happy, sheltered homes this winter to give a thought to the 180,000 Armenian refugees who fled from their persecutors, the Turks, early in 1915. Their plight is truly pitiful. Despite all that Relief Societies have done for them, they still remain insufficiently clothed and fed in the rigours of this hard winter.

It is hoped that the repatriation of the women and children to the districts of Armenia conquered by the Russians may be undertaken in the Spring. But to re-house and clothe all these thousands of people will mean a vast expenditure of money, for they need everything with which to re-commence life—agricultural implements, building materials, cattle, seed-corn, and every other necessity. The appeals from Persia, where there are thousands of Armenian and Nestorian refugees, are also many and insistent.

Contributions, which will be most gratefully received and promptly acknowledged, should be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, E. Wright Brooks, Esq., Friends of Armenia, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

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All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-st., Piccadilly, W. Thursday, Feb. 22nd, 3 p.m.: "The Prospect for Suffrage," by Mr. H. N. Brailsford. Chairman, Miss Mildred Ransom.

Continued from page 598

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W. Tuesday next, at 5 o'clock, "Russian Women in History," by Mrs. Sonia Howe. Admission free.

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POSITIONS VACANT.

COMPETENT Woman Gardener required, with knowledge of poultry-keeping, to take charge of small estate; Derbyshire; chiefly kitchen-garden; man's help.—Apply Secretary, Co-operative Holidays Association, 223, Brunswick-st., Manchester.

TWO Gentlewomen Wanted for work of modern house; family, four; plain cooking.—State age, salary (interview), Mrs. Barber, Scalby, Scarborough.

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WANTED Help, to share with another work of house; live with family; small country town Herefordshire.—Box 6,487, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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WANTED, post as working Housekeeper, in March, to one or two ladies; widow; experienced; vegetarian cooking.—L., 77, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

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Chairman: **Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.**

Speakers:

The Rt. Hon. WALTER RUNCIMAN, M.P.
Mr. J. H. THOMAS, M.P.
Mrs. CREIGHTON
Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY
The Rt. Hon. the Viscount COWDRAY

At the Organ: **Mrs. FRED WALKER, A.R.C.O.**

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BANK CLERKS.
BANK CASHIERS.
BAKERS.
CANTEEN AND SOCIAL WORKERS.
CLERKS & SECRETARIES.
CARPENTERS.
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CUTLERY WORKERS.
CHARWOMEN.
DENTISTS.
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